



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Connecticut 2020



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$545,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$80,336
Forest Legacy	\$1,479,040
Forest Stewardship	\$65,180
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$216,025
State Fire Assistance	\$395,842
Urban and Community Forestry	\$252,040
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$95,984
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,129,447</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State and Private Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

### Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

### Key Issues

- Maintaining forest ecosystem health and biodiversity.
- Promoting stewardship of public forests.
- Protecting private forest lands: Challenges and opportunities facing private forest landowners.
- Providing for forest-based recreational opportunities.
- Supporting a sustainable forest-based economy.
- Fostering public awareness and support of forests.
- Advocating and implementing effective forest planning and policy.
- Importance of ongoing forest research.
- Limits and threats to urban forestry in Connecticut.

**Forest Facts and Accomplishments**

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2019 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	3,574,097	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,875
Acres of Forest Land	1,789,611	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,404
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,383,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	627
Number of NIPF Landowners	108,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	40
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	230
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	2,390,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	276	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	79
Cities and Towns	29	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	165
Forest Based Employment	10,050	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,536,256
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	6	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	15,000
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,627,000		

**Program Highlights*****Cooperative Fire Protection***

Connecticut was affected by a severe drought and gypsy moth outbreak from 2015 to 2017. This has caused extensive tree mortality, elevated fuel loading, and hazard tree risk. The state has been awarded one competitive State Fire Assistance grant to treat hazardous fuels, create fuel breaks, and train firefighters in the highest-priority mortality areas. The grant will provide funding for meetings to educate the public and local officials on the wildfire risks posed by the mortality and the strategies to reduce wildfire risks.

***Forest Health Protection***

Emerald ash borer caused considerable ash mortality in the western two thirds of the state, especially in urban and street trees. Monitoring for the invasive beetle ceased as Connecticut became part of the contiguous quarantine. The gypsy moth population crashed but there are areas with significant oak mortality due to the previous outbreak. Beech leaf disease was confirmed in Fairfield County in the summer of 2019. Oak wilt monitoring began in 2019 due to the proximity of the New York infestations.

***Forest Legacy***

The Forest Legacy Program continued protecting important forests in northern Connecticut with the second conservation easement acquisition of the Whip-poor-will Woods multi-tract project. In 2019, the state acquired a conservation easement on a 79-acre tract using \$150,000 of Forest Legacy Program funds. The state is continuing acquisition activities on the remaining tracts in the project, with closings to occur in 2020.

***Forest Stewardship***

The Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program reported 31 new or revised forest stewardship plans covering 2,404 acres. Last year, 1,583 landowners attended education programs and 292 landowners received technical assists. Over \$500,000 was provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to forestry-related plans and projects. New projects include "Parcel-level Climate Adaptation" (a three-state Landscape Scale Restoration project) and "Accelerating the Pace of Woodlands Conservation in the Southern New England Heritage Forest," a three-state Regional Conservation Partnership Program that brings \$6 million (\$1.5 million to forest management plans and conservation practices and \$4.5 million to Health Forest Reserves in areas surrounding the junction of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island).

**Urban and Community Forestry**

A new edition of the Tree Owner's Manual was designed for Connecticut, and 5,000 copies were distributed throughout the state. Urban and Community Forestry grants funded four community projects: an invasive species public awareness campaign, ash tree removal and replanting, student education, and a community tree planting project. The Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut provided training events to enable members to meet required state qualification standards.

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